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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES  
306 U. S. Court House, Portland 5, Oregon

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1953  
(March 1, 1953)

OREGON: Oregon farmers indicated about March 1 they intend to plant a 4 per cent larger acreage of the principal spring crops (excluding hay) than a year ago. However, the 1953 intended acreage of those crops is 15 per cent less than the ten year (1942-51) average. One of the principal factors contributing to the increase in spring plantings was the unfavorable seeding conditions last fall. This discouraged seeding of fall grains up to intentions, particularly wheat and oats.

The intended increase in spring planted crops compared with a year ago is largely due to the intentions to plant 216,000 acres of spring wheat which is 35 per cent greater than the 160,000 acres planted last season. These intentions more than compensate for the plantings of 937,000 acres of winter wheat for harvest in 1953 compared with 986,000 acres planted for harvest in 1952. Intentions to plant a total of 325,000 acres of barley represents a 7 per cent increase over the 304,000 acres planted a year ago. On the other hand, plantings of fall oats plus intentions for spring oats amounts to 368,000 acres, a 10 per cent decrease from the 411,000 acres planted last year. This decline is attributed entirely to the sharp drop to 75,000 acres of oats with peas and vetch for all purposes, which is 45 per cent less than the 137,000 acres planted the previous season. Seeding of fall oats and intentions for spring oats alone totals 293,000 acres. This is 7 per cent more than the 274,000 acres of oats planted alone for harvest in 1952, and may compensate somewhat for a probable decline in production from oats with peas and vetch.

Intentions to plant 38,000 acres of potatoes amounts to a 15 per cent larger acreage than the relatively small 33,000 acres a year ago. A somewhat smaller acreage of all hay for harvest is indicated this year.

In general, the present soil moisture picture is fair, although far from as favorable as a year ago. According to the March 1 Snow Survey Bulletin - "Oregon's 1953 water supply outlook, dependent on snow cover, is 'fair' to 'good' with water content of present snow cover 99 per cent of normal on 100 measured snow courses. Preliminary forecasts of streamflow indicate normal to above normal water supplies expected in the State with the exception of the Owyhee, White, and Hood rivers, and streams with headwaters in the Ochoco and Blue Mountains, where below normal water supplies are expected. Reservoir water supply is 128 per cent of normal State-wide, and 'good' to 'excellent' in most areas where below normal water supplies (stream-flow) is expected."

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST

	Average 1942-51		Planted Acreages		1953 as per cent of 1952
	Acreage	Yield per	Planted Acre	Indicated	
	Planted	Planted Acre	1952	1953	
	(000 Acres)	Average Unit	Thous. Acres	Thous. Acres	Per cent
S P R I N G W H E A T					
Oregon	229	22.5 Bu.	160	216	135
Washington	678	21.9 "	369	970	263
North Idaho 1/	71	22.2 "	103	127	123
Pac. N. W. 1/	978	-	632	1,313	208
C O R N					
Oregon	33	37.4 Bu.	28	27	96
Washington	20	50.3 "	21	22	105
Idaho	33	46.5 "	47	52	111
Total 3 States	86	-	96	101	105
O A T S 2/					
Oregon 3/	501	19.3 "	411	368	90
Washington	259	28.7 "	209	203	97
Idaho	212	36.6 "	204	204	100
Total 3 States	972	-	824	775	94
B A R L E Y					
Oregon	330	30.0 "	304	325	107
Washington	188	32.6 "	92	112	122
Idaho	360	33.2 "	335	335	100
Total 3 States	878	-	731	772	106
A L L H A Y 4/					
Oregon	1,076	1.69 Ton	1,023	1,013	99
Washington	865	1.89 "	797	821	103
Idaho	1,110	2.13 "	1,097	1,108	101
Total 3 States	3,051	-	2,917	2,942	101
P E A S - D R Y F I E L D 5/					
Oregon	23	1,174 Lb.	9	9	100
Washington	244	1,270 "	117	119	102
Idaho	141	1,242 "	64	70	110
Total 3 States	413	-	190	198	104
P O T A T O E S					
Oregon	42	270 Bu.	33	38	115
Washington	34	307 "	26	29	112
Idaho	163	248 "	138	155	112
Total 3 States	239	-	197	222	113
California:					
Early	64	387 "	60	80	133
Late	39	338 "	42	46	110

1/ Excludes southern Idaho. 2/ Includes acreage planted in preceding fall. 3/ The following total acreage of oats grown with peas and vetch included in planted acreages: 1952- 137,000 acres; 1953 - 75,000 acres intended. 4/ Acreage harvested. 5/ Includes acreage grown for seed.

(Continued on page 2)



UNITED STATES: Acreages of most spring-planted crops in 1953 will vary only slightly from those of 1952, if farmers' current plans materialize. Most of the changes are increases--sharp only in the case of flax and sorghums. The chief cause of the uncertainty in fulfillment of plans lies in the extent of winter wheat acreage losses. The mild winter has enabled much wheat acreage to hold on precariously but the Great Plains area still faces a critical period. For the 16 crops covered in this report, a total of 271 million acres is indicated, compared with 266.7 million planted in 1952. Spring activities were mostly normal to advanced. Soil moisture ranges from barely adequate to satisfactory in most areas, except the central and southern Great Plains, where surface moisture is only temporarily adequate and subsoil reserves are lacking. Irrigation water supplies will be near normal in the North, tapering to below normal in southern Rocky Mountain areas.

In reporting plans for 1953, it was apparent that many farmers in the Great Plains were faced with a dilemma--their winter wheat still occupied their fields, but because of its precarious condition they had to be ready with a crop to replant the land if the wheat were lost. Farmers indicated their plans to hold or increase hay and grassland acreages, particularly in the South. Current plans, subject to change in the uncertain areas, indicate decreases in acreage for corn, durum wheat, all tobacco, barley and peanuts. Large acreage increases over 1952 are indicated for all sorghums, oats and flax, but relatively small increases for other spring wheat, rice, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, soybeans, all hay, sugar beets, dry beans and peas.

Feed grains apparently will be grown on a larger aggregate acreage than in 1952. This may result in better geographic distribution of feeds produced, but does not necessarily indicate an increase in tonnage over that of last year. Larger acreages in sorghums and oats, more than offset decreases in corn and barley acreages. The prospective corn acreage is smaller by 894,000 acres or about 1 per cent, as sharp declines in most South Central States more than offset increases in most of the higher-yielding North Central States. The increase of 802,000 acres, or nearly 2 per cent, in oats results from sharp increases in Kansas and the South exceeding the decreases in the high-yielding areas of the East North Central States, Nebraska, and the West. For barley, a decrease of 28,000 acres is indicated, as increases in Missouri, the South Central region and the West did not quite equal decreases in most North Central States.

Acreage of food grains will be slightly smaller than in 1952. The acreage of winter wheat sown in the fall of 1952, was about a half-million acres less than the large acreage of a year earlier. The intended acreage of spring wheat barely exceeds that of last year, with an increase in hard spring wheat more than offsetting a decrease in durum.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - UNITED STATES				
C R O P	P L A N T E D   A C R E A G E S			
	Average	Indicated		
	1942-51	1952	1953	1953 as per cent of 1952
		Thousands		Per cent
Corn, all .....	88,024	82,658	81,764	98.9
All spring wheat.....	19,302	21,518	21,600	100.4
Durum.....	2,643	2,306	2,145	93.0
Other spring.....	16,659	19,212	19,455	101.3
Oats.....	43,953	42,975	43,777	101.9
Barley.....	13,487	9,385	9,357	99.7
Flaxseed.....	4,348	3,450	4,142	120.1
Rice.....	1,668	2,013	2,119	105.3
Sorghums for all purposes..	14,883	12,455	14,666	117.8
Potatoes.....	2,318	1,417	1,509	106.5
Sweetpotatoes.....	591	334	367	109.7
Tobacco 1/.....	1,678	1,776	1,659	93.5
Beans, dry edible.....	1,918	1,319	1,332	101.0
Peas, dry field .....	498	238	234	102.6
Soybeans 2/.....	13,300	15,643	15,862	101.4
Peanuts 2/ .....	3,664	1,969	1,958	99.4
Hay 1/.....	74,666	74,664	74,859	100.3
Sugar Beets.....	829	720	801	111.2
1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.				

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